



June 18, 2004

Providence man is sentenced to nearly 22 years in prison for heroin trafficking and firearms offenses

A federal judge today sentenced **Ulises Matos**, 37, of Providence, to 262 months in federal prison for heroin trafficking and firearms offenses. Providence Police arrested Matos in December and seized narcotics, guns and \$73,725 from his house on Minor Street.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence.

At a hearing in March at which Matos pleaded guilty, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth P. Madden said that Providence Police narcotics detectives had been investigating Matos last year for suspected drug dealing. In November, an undercover detective bought heroin from Matos in the parking lot of a fast food restaurant on Eddy Street.

Detectives obtained a warrant for Matos' arrest and a search warrant for his house at 104 Miner Street. Detectives arrested Matos on December 10 at Gallup Street and Prairie Avenue, immediately after he made another heroin sale to the undercover detective. A search of his house turned up 56 bags of heroin, trafficking material, a loaded .44 caliber handgun, and a .22 caliber rifle with obliterated serial numbers. Police also found approximately \$73,725 in cash – \$3,000 in a bedroom and \$70,275 in two cash boxes hidden under a staircase.

Matos pleaded guilty to several charges: two counts of distributing heroin, one count of possessing with intent to distribute heroin within 1,000 feet of a school, possessing cocaine,

being a felon in possession of firearms, possessing a firearm with an altered or obliterated serial number, and possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offense.

The United States Attorney has initiated forfeiture proceedings against the house and the cash, alleging that they were used to facilitate or were the proceeds of drug trafficking.

Providence Police and the **Drug Enforcement Administration** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth P. Madden prosecuted it and Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey represented the government at today's sentencing. Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael P. Iannotti is prosecuting the forfeiture case.

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